

## Department of State

## § 137.715

the improper conduct occurred in connection with a partnership, joint venture, joint application, association or similar arrangement, or when the organization to whom the improper conduct is imputed has the power to direct, manage, control or influence the activities of the organization responsible for the improper conduct. Acceptance of the benefits derived from the conduct is evidence of knowledge, approval or acquiescence.

### **§ 137.635 May the Department of State settle a debarment or suspension action?**

Yes, we may settle a debarment or suspension action at any time if it is in the best interest of the Federal Government.

### **§ 137.640 May a settlement include a voluntary exclusion?**

Yes, if we enter into a settlement with you in which you agree to be excluded, it is called a voluntary exclusion and has governmentwide effect.

### **§ 137.645 Do other Federal agencies know if the Department of State agrees to a voluntary exclusion?**

(a) Yes, we enter information regarding a voluntary exclusion into the *EPLS*.

(b) Also, any agency or person may contact us to find out the details of a voluntary exclusion.

## Subpart G—Suspension

### **§ 137.700 When may the suspending official issue a suspension?**

Suspension is a serious action. Using the procedures of this subpart and subpart F of this part, the suspending official may impose suspension only when that official determines that—

(a) There exists an indictment for, or other adequate evidence to suspect, an offense listed under § 137.800(a), or

(b) There exists adequate evidence to suspect any other cause for debarment listed under § 137.800(b) through (d); and

(c) Immediate action is necessary to protect the public interest.

### **§ 137.705 What does the suspending official consider in issuing a suspension?**

(a) In determining the adequacy of the evidence to support the suspension, the suspending official considers how much information is available, how credible it is given the circumstances, whether or not important allegations are corroborated, and what inferences can reasonably be drawn as a result. During this assessment, the suspending official may examine the basic documents, including grants, cooperative agreements, loan authorizations, contracts, and other relevant documents.

(b) An indictment, conviction, civil judgment, or other official findings by Federal, State, or local bodies that determine factual and/or legal matters, constitutes adequate evidence for purposes of suspension actions.

(c) In deciding whether immediate action is needed to protect the public interest, the suspending official has wide discretion. For example, the suspending official may infer the necessity for immediate action to protect the public interest either from the nature of the circumstances giving rise to a cause for suspension or from potential business relationships or involvement with a program of the Federal Government.

### **§ 137.710 When does a suspension take effect?**

A suspension is effective when the suspending official signs the decision to suspend.

### **§ 137.715 What notice does the suspending official give me if I am suspended?**

After deciding to suspend you, the suspending official promptly sends you a Notice of Suspension advising you—

(a) That you have been suspended;

(b) That your suspension is based on—

(1) An indictment;

(2) A conviction;

(3) Other adequate evidence that you have committed irregularities which seriously reflect on the propriety of further Federal Government dealings with you; or